AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total potential of natural and associated gas and its current production;

(b) what is the amount of associated gas still being flared; and

(c) what steps are being taken to put the available gas to an optimum use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The balance recoverable reserves of natural gas are estimated at around 700 BCM as on 1.4.93. The current production of natural gas is 49.87 MMSCMD of which 22.04 MMSCMD is associated gas.

(b) The current rate of flaring is 5.02 MMSCMD.

(c) After extraction of LPG and C2, C3 fractions to the extent feasible, the available gas is being supplied to the fertilizer, power and other industrial units. The required compression and transportation facilities are being set up to reduce flaring to the technical minimum.

Offer from Oman oil company

2925. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has asked the Oman Oil Companies to offer a fresh price before it can make any commitment as the cost of natural gas offered by the OOC is too high to be acceptable to Government;

(b) if so, what is the OOC's price offered for supply of natural gas;

(c) whether in this connection an inter-departmental Committee was set up by Government last year;

(d) whether the said Committee presented report to the Government in January, 1994;

(e) if so, what were the main recommendations made by the Committe;

(f) to what extent the recommendations of the Committee have been examined; and

(g) what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (g) An Inter-departmental Committee has been constituted to look into the key ingredients and parameters, including the price of gas, that should constitute the framework of a Long Term Gas Supply Contract with the Oman Oil Company. The issues involved are under discussion with the Oman Oil Company.

Allegation on state oil selection boards

2926. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has received large number of complaints from the public that money and other considerations are playing its role in the distribution of petroleum and gas outlets; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have received complaints against the State Oil Selection Boards of Haryana, Punjab and Delhi, if so, what is the nature of complaints;

(c) whether Government have initiated any action or propose to take any action against the guilty Chairman/Members of the Boards; and